



Nevada Operations Office News

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Public Hearing for Proposal to Relocate Los Alamos National Laboratory Technical Area (TA-18) Missions

On April 26, 2000, former Energy Secretary Bill Richardson announced the Department of Energy National Nuclear Security Administration's (NNSA) proposal to relocate missions at Technical Area (TA-18), a group of facilities at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) by the end of 2004.

The Energy Secretary also announced that NNSA would prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed relocation of TA-18, where the design, construction, research, development and application of experiments on nuclear criticality is conducted.

The TA-18 Relocation EIS will evaluate the environmental impact associated with relocating the TA-18 missions to the following alternative locations: a different site at LANL (the preferred alternative) at Los Alamos, New Mexico; the Nevada Test Site, Nevada; the Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Argonne National Laboratory-West, Idaho Falls, Idaho.

Originally a Public Hearing was scheduled for September 13. However, the recent terrorist attacks made it necessary to cancel the meeting. The rescheduled meeting will be held **October 11, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.** at the *NNSA's Nevada Operations Office, 232 Energy Way, North Las Vegas.*

The public is invited to attend the meeting where they will be provided with an opportunity to

present comments, ask questions, and discuss concerns with NNSA officials regarding the EIS.

To ensure consideration on the preparation of the TA-18 Relocation Final EIS, comments must be submitted or postmarked by **October 26**.

The TA-18 facilities support important defense, nuclear safety, and other national security missions. Though TA-18 is judged to be secure by the department's independent inspection office, its facilities are between 30 and 50 years old and are increasingly expensive to maintain and operate. Relocating the TA-18 missions will enable the Department to conduct these missions in a more efficient and cost effective manner.

A media availability is scheduled for October 11, from 6p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Nevada Operations Office.